

REMARKS

In response to the Advisory Action, Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, and 13 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,106,366 issued to Parker et al ("Parker"), U.S. Patent No. 7,065,751 issued to Hagiwara et al ("Hagiwara") and admitted Prior Art: Figs. 1-6, PP. 2-3, paragraphs 7-9 and PP. 9-13, paragraphs 29-44 ("APA"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the relied upon references must teach or suggest every limitation of the claim such that the invention as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one skilled in the art.

With respect to independent Claim 1, Applicant submits that the cited references fail to disclose a designation allowing unit to allow an arbitrary designation of a region of interest for an image file stored in a storage region. According to the present invention, the designation allowing means allows a user to arbitrarily designate a region of interest for an image file stored in a storage area which may be non-compressed image file or an image file compressed using a format other than the JPEG 2000. Then, the image file is converted into a JPEG 2000 compressed image file and blocks such as tiles and precincts corresponding to the region of interest designated by the designation allowing means are extracted from the JPEG 2000 compressed image (see pp. 24-25). On the other hand, according to the disclosure of Parker et al., a main subject detection unit 208 of a camera 200 is configured to automatically detect a region of interest (belief map 209), and the data extraction unit 401 of a transcoder 400 is configured to extract a region of interest (belief map 403) based on the detected region of interest (belief map 209) from enhanced image data (219) including captured image data (207) and information on the detected region of interest (217) that is supplied from the camera 200. Further, an image compressor 406 is configured to convert the extracted image data into JPEG 2000 format. In other words, Parker et al. teaches automatically detecting a region of interest and generating enhanced compressed image data at the camera, and extracting the region of interest from the enhanced compressed image data and converting the extracted image data into JPEG 2000 format at the transcoder side. This is clearly different from the present invention that teaches allowing arbitrary designation of a region of interest for a non-JPEG 2000 compressed

image file, converting the image file into JPEG 2000 format, and extracting blocks corresponding to the designated region of interest from the JPEG 2000 image file.

Claim 1 also requires an extraction output unit to extract from the compressed image file a plurality of blocks corresponding to a region of interest designated by the designation allowing unit. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not shown in Parker. The Examiner points out in the Final Office Action dated October 5, 2007 that the extraction output means of the present invention is disclosed in the description of the related art in the present application. However, the relevant section does not specifically disclose extracting blocks corresponding to the region of interest designated by the designation allowing means from a JPEG 2000 compressed image file as it taught in the present invention.

Accordingly, we believe none of the cited references teach or suggest allowing arbitrary designation of a region of interest for a non-JPEG 2000 compressed image file, converting the image file into JPEG 2000 format, and extracting blocks corresponding to the designated region of interest from the JPEG 2000 image file as is taught by the present invention. In view of this, Applicant respectfully submits the present invention as claimed is not obvious in view of Parker, Hagiwara, and admitted prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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